Indian does not come under the category of the poorest and most indebted countries.

Missing of Passports sent through Post

3861. SHRI RAM GOPAL VADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the missing of passports sent through post;

(b) if so, the details thereof, detected during the last two years and the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government have detected any cases of obtaining passports by applicants on bogus addresses during the last two years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government's attention has been drawn to missing passports sent through post. The problem has been brought to the notice of the postal authorities who have been requested to investigate such cases.

(c) and (d) Government is aware of cases where passports have been obtained by giving bogus address. As soon as such cases come to notice of the Passport Office the passports are impounded. A record of impounding passports is 'maintained by the respective Passport Offices.

Proof of Pak Hand in Bombay Blast

3862. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHATA:
SHRI SARDA MOHANTY:
SHRI G.G. SWELL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn the attention of Islamic countries with regard to ISI activities and indisputable proof of ISI's hand on Bombay blast; and

(b) if so, whether Government would take some steps to see that Ayub Memon's family in Karachi does not get liquidated due to Ayub's disclosures regarding ISI activities in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government have supplied to Pakistan detailed information about the presence of members of the Memon family in Pakistan. Government have repeatedly and at various levels urged Pakistan to locate, apprehend and return to India the members of the Memon family. It is regrettable that so far no positive response has been received from Pakistan.

Government's stand on Pakistan's proposal on Nucear Weapons

3863. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether government's attention has been drawn to a press newsitem captioned Pak spurns no first attach proposal as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 4.7.1994;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan has turned down the proposal to sign an agreement to use nuclear weapons;

(c) if so, whether the plans of Pakistan appears to be mischievous; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Government proposed to Government of Pakistan, one in of the six Nonpapers forwarded to Pakistan on January 24, 1994, that as further demonstration of its commitment for reducing mistrust and enhancing confidence between the two countries, India would be willing to enter into an agreement according to which both countries shall undertake not to be the first to use or threaten to use its nuclear capability against each other.

Pakistan's response conveyed on 19th February, 1994 in the form of comments and counter proposals was, regrettably, dismissive. On March 21, 1994, Government once again urged Pakistan to consider the Indian proposals

with sincerity of purpose as they could form a basis of a comprehensive and meaningful dialogue. Pakistan's response is awaited.

Number of Diplomatic Passports

3864. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Diplomatic Passports validly existing as on 1st August, 1994; and

(b) what is the number out of these which are held by non-officials like Members of Parliament etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) the total number of diploimatic passports issued at Headequarters from 1.1.1985 to 1.8.1994 was 10,628. It is not possible to state how many of these remain valid since diplomatic passports are issued for periods ranging from one year to three years depending on the nature and duration of a diplomatic assignment and may be renewed for further period, if so required.

(b) For the 1.1.1985 to 1.8.1994, 1,320 diplomatic passports were issued at Headquarters to nonofficials including Members of Parliament, former Members of Parliament, Ministers and Haj Committee Members.

US Assisant Secretary of State's Statement on Indo-Pak Nuclear War

3865. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to some statements of US Assistant Secretary of State for Political Military Affairs made in June, 1994 mentioning that Indo-Pak Nucelear War is feared;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to call for more clarifications in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes Sir. The reference was incidental to the main theme of the remarks newsmen by the US Assistant Secretary for Political and Military Affairs which dealt with the DPRK nuclear issue.

(b) Government do not share the view that there is any imminent prospect of conventional or nuclear war between India and Pakistan. India, in any case, does not possess nuclear weapons.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Such statements have also been made earlier by US Government representatives. The position of the Government is well-known to the Government of the United States.

Compensation to Indian Soldiers died in UN peace keeping operation

3866. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that France and Belgium told the United Nations that the amount of compensation paid to Indian soldiers who died on peace keeping duties should be less than that paid to families of soldiers from Western countries on the plea that the manpower in developing countries is cheaper;

(b) if so, whether Government of India objected to such demand of France and Belgium; and

(c) what was the response of the United Nations with relevance to the demand of France and Belgium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

However, there is an anomaly in the present system followed by the UN for payment of death compensation, according to which the compensation is only at the level at which individual countries made payments to the families of the deceased. Therefore, the families would be compensated differently depending on the nationality of the deceased soldier.